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Jack Reed

pending

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To improve the amendment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

## H. R. 5515

To aut **AMENDMENT N<sup>o</sup> 2885** litary  
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Page(s)

GPO: 2016 22-945 (mac)

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the amendment (No. 2276)  
proposed by Mr. BOOZMAN

Viz:

1 At the end, add the following:

2 **SEC. 1254A. INEFFECTIVENESS OF SECTION 937.**

3 Section 937, relating to a Strategic Defense Fellows  
4 Program for the Department of Defense, shall have no  
5 force or effect.

6 **SEC. 1254B. JOHN S. MCCAIN STRATEGIC DEFENSE FEL-**  
7 **LOWS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1       retary of Defense shall establish within the Depart-  
2       ment of Defense a civilian fellowship program de-  
3       signed to provide leadership development and the  
4       commencement of a career track toward senior lead-  
5       ership in the Department.

6               (2) DESIGNATION.—The fellowship program  
7       shall be known as the “John S. McCain Strategic  
8       Defense Fellows Program” (in this section referred  
9       to as the “fellows program”).

10       (b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual is eligible for par-  
11       ticipation in the fellows program if the individual—

12               (1) is a citizen of the United States or a lawful  
13       permanent resident of the United States in the year  
14       in which the individual applies for participation in  
15       the fellows program; and

16               (2) either—

17                       (A) possesses a graduate degree from an  
18       accredited institution of higher education in the  
19       United States that was awarded not later than  
20       two years before the date of the acceptance of  
21       the individual into the fellows program; or

22                       (B) will be awarded a graduate degree  
23       from an accredited institution of higher edu-  
24       cation in the United States not later than six

1 months after the date of the acceptance of the  
2 individual into the fellows program.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—

4 (1) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—Each individual  
5 seeking to participate in the fellows program shall  
6 submit to the Secretary an application therefor at  
7 such time and in such manner as the Secretary shall  
8 specify.

9 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each application of an indi-  
10 vidual under this subsection shall include the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 (A) Transcripts of educational achievement  
13 at the undergraduate and graduate level.

14 (B) A resume.

15 (C) Proof of citizenship or lawful perma-  
16 nent residence.

17 (D) An endorsement from the applicant's  
18 graduate institution of higher education.

19 (E) An academic writing sample.

20 (F) Letters of recommendation addressing  
21 the applicant's character, academic ability, and  
22 any extracurricular activities.

23 (G) A personal statement by the applicant  
24 explaining career areas of interest and motiva-  
25 tions for service in the Department.

1 (H) Such other information as the Sec-  
2 retary considers appropriate.

3 (d) SELECTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each year, the Secretary  
5 shall select participants in the fellows program from  
6 among applicants for the fellows program for such  
7 year who qualify for participation in the fellows pro-  
8 gram based on character, commitment to public  
9 service, academic achievement, extracurricular activi-  
10 ties, and such other qualifications for participation  
11 in the fellows program as the Secretary considers  
12 appropriate.

13 (2) NUMBER.—The number of individuals se-  
14 lected to participate in the fellows program in any  
15 year may not exceed the numbers as follows:

16 (A) Ten individuals from each geographic  
17 region of the United States as follows:

18 (i) The Northeast.

19 (ii) The Southeast.

20 (iii) The Midwest.

21 (iv) The Southwest.

22 (v) The West.

23 (B) Ten additional individuals.

24 (3) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.—An indi-  
25 vidual selected to participate in the fellows program

1        may not participate in the program unless the indi-  
2        vidual successfully undergoes a background inves-  
3        tigation applicable to the position to which the indi-  
4        vidual will be assigned under the fellows program  
5        and otherwise meets such requirements applicable to  
6        assignment to a sensitive position within the Depart-  
7        ment that the Secretary considers appropriate.

8        (e) ASSIGNMENT.—

9            (1) IN GENERAL.—Each individual who partici-  
10        pates in the fellows program shall be assigned to a  
11        position in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

12           (2) POSITION REQUIREMENTS.—Each Under  
13        Secretary of Defense and each Director of a Defense  
14        Agency who reports directly to the Secretary shall  
15        submit to the Secretary each year the qualifications  
16        and skills to be demonstrated by participants in the  
17        fellows program to qualify for assignment under this  
18        subsection for service in a position of the office of  
19        such Under Secretary or Director.

20           (3) ASSIGNMENT TO POSITIONS.—The Sec-  
21        retary shall each year assign participants in the fel-  
22        lows program to positions in the offices of the Under  
23        Secretaries and Directors described in paragraph  
24        (2). In making such assignments, the Secretary shall  
25        seek to best match the qualifications and skills of

1 participants in the fellows program with the require-  
2 ments of positions available for assignment. Each  
3 participant so assigned shall serve as a special as-  
4 sistant to the Under Secretary or Director to whom  
5 assigned.

6 (4) TERM.—The term of each assignment  
7 under the fellows program shall be one year.

8 (5) PAY AND BENEFITS.—An individual as-  
9 signed to a position under the fellows program shall  
10 be compensated at the rate of compensation for em-  
11 ployees at level GS-10 of the General Schedule, and  
12 shall be treated as an employee of the United States  
13 during the term of assignment, including for pur-  
14 poses of eligibility for health care benefits and retire-  
15 ment benefits available to employees of the United  
16 States.

17 (6) EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT.—To the ex-  
18 tent that funds are provided in advance in appro-  
19 priations Acts, the Secretary may repay any loan of  
20 a participant in the fellows program if the loan is  
21 described by subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of sec-  
22 tion 16301(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code.  
23 Any repayment of loans under this paragraph shall  
24 be on a first-come, first-served basis.

25 (f) CAREER DEVELOPMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure  
2           that participants in the fellows program—

3                   (A) receive opportunities and support ap-  
4                   propriate for the commencement of a career  
5                   track within the Department leading toward a  
6                   future position of senior leadership within the  
7                   Department, including ongoing mentorship sup-  
8                   port through appropriate personnel from enti-  
9                   ties within the Department such as the Defense  
10                  Business Board and the Defense Innovation  
11                  Board; and

12                   (B) are provided appropriate opportunities  
13                   for employment and advancement within the  
14                   Department upon successful completion of the  
15                   fellows program.

16           (2) RESERVATION OF POSITIONS.—In carrying  
17           out paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall reserve for  
18           participants who successfully complete the fellows  
19           program not fewer than 30 positions in the excepted  
20           service within the Department that are suitable for  
21           the commencement of a career track toward senior  
22           leadership within the Department. Any position so  
23           reserved shall not be subject to or covered by any re-  
24           duction in headquarters personnel required under  
25           any other provision of law.

1           (3) NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENT.—Upon  
2     the successful completion of the assignment of a  
3     participant in the fellows program in a position pur-  
4     suant to subsection (e), the Secretary may, without  
5     regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter  
6     33 of title 5, United States Code, appoint the partic-  
7     ipant to a position reserved pursuant to paragraph  
8     (2) if the Secretary determines that such appoint-  
9     ment will contribute to the development of highly  
10    qualified future senior leaders for the Department.

11          (4) PUBLICATION OF SELECTION.—The Sec-  
12    retary shall publish on an Internet website of the  
13    Department available to the public the names of the  
14    individuals selected to participate in the fellows pro-  
15    gram.

16          (g) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall undertake ap-  
17    propriate outreach to inform potential participants in the  
18    fellows program of the nature and benefits of participation  
19    in the fellows program.

20          (h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out  
21    this section in accordance with such regulations as the  
22    Secretary may prescribe for purposes of this section.

23          (i) FUNDING.—Of the amounts authorized to be ap-  
24    propriated for each fiscal year for the Department of De-  
25    fense for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide,



- 1 \$10,000,000 may be available to carry out the fellows pro-
- 2 gram in such fiscal year.